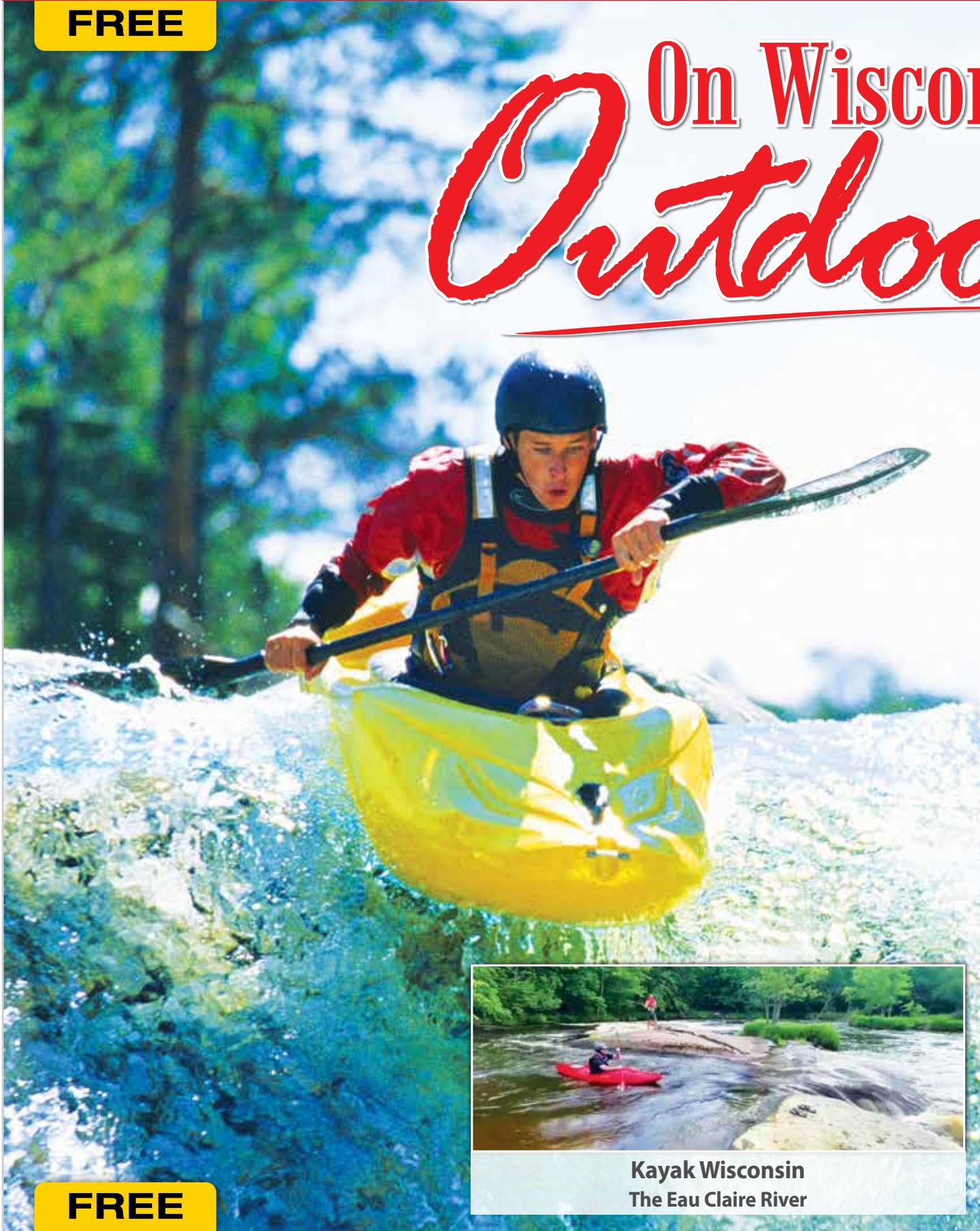


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PHIL SCHWEIK

A Time for Speed *Burning baits for muskies*

Summer can be the toughest season to catch muskies. The days are long and hot, the fish are lethargic and the feeding windows can be small. The good news is that there is an answer to this dilemma and it comes with speed.

When the water temperatures warm up, a fish's metabolism starts to slow down, which is very similar to what happens to people when it gets warm outside. When the air temperatures rise, we have less ambition to do anything or to go anywhere. Fish are very much the same way, but just like us, they still have to eat.

The feeding windows are small though, and they may occur at times when we are not on the water. So how do we get them to feed when we are on the water? How do we trigger that feeding urge in a musky when the water temperatures warm up?

Speed won't kill, in this case for all of us that release the muskies we catch, but speed will definitely entice the strike. And you will release a lot more fish in these dog days of summer. The faster you can move or

retrieve your lure during the hot summer months, the better odds you will have at catching a musky. This does come with exceptions, but the majority of the time, I know personally this technique works.

When the water temperatures heat up, I start burning bucktails as fast as I can and begin ripping jerkbaits faster and harder to create turmoil on the water. This chaos can and will trigger a lethargic musky in to striking. It is not necessarily a feeding strike, but more often a reaction strike; the musky is reacting out of aggression, as opposed to reacting out of the urge to feed.

I have used this method time and time again and have seen its effectiveness in triggering muskies to strike. The next time you're out on the water and you're not catching any fish, speed it up. You may wake a sleeping giant! 🐟

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Anne Tufto with a nice summer musky.

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CAPTAIN DAVID DUWE

Not Just for Kids! *Big bobbers, big fish*

Both weather and the changing seasons can make it challenging to put fish in the boat for my clients. In the late part of the season, the "Dog Days of Summer," the bite tends to slow down a bit. Making successful, happy customers requires using more live bait presentations to catch fish. One of my favorite methods is a slip bobber rig, not for walleye and panfish, but for huge bass and pike. It is basically the same presentation that Florida guides have been using for decades with balloons and large shiners.

The biggest benefit to bobber fishing is the ability to control the depth of the bait. The bobber allows you to suspend the bait directly over a fish holding to structure. With a few people in the boat, it also allows you to cover a lot of water spreading the bobbers around the boat. In late summer, I like to fish open pockets in the weeds. A bobber can help you visually place your bait specifically where you want it. Slip bobbers also serve as a strike

indicator when a fish takes the bait.

The slip bobber set up is the standard presentation: a slip bobber knot, a bead, a slip bobber, weight and a 1/0 hook. The key part of the rig is the bobber. I use the Thill Big Fish slider. This is a large, tapered at both ends float that lays flat on the water when the bait is calm. When a fish gets close and excites the bait, the bobber will stand upright alerting you to the proximity of a fish before it strikes. I do not give the bass any time to eat. Once the bobber is under, I set the hook immediately. By doing this, it eliminates the possibility of getting the fish deeply hooked. When fishing any slip bobber, before the hook sets, one needs to reel all the slack line in to increase your odds of hook up.

The rod set up I prefer is a heavy one, a seven-foot medium heavy with an Abu Garcia 6500 C3 with 20-pound test. The 6500 reel offers a bait clicker which is nice to have to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

TOM CARPENTER

Summer Sunfish Secrets

9 strategies when hot weather brings cold fishing

Fishing for sun fish is more challenging in summer than spring. Come summer, bluegills head for seclusion and cooler waters under cover or in deep water. But they can be found following these nine strategies.

1 - Stick to the Weeds

Once water temperatures pass 72 F, big bluegills finish procreating and move to deeper water. In natural lakes, weeds now hold the sunnies. Go to the deeper edge of the weedline and fish close. Bluegills love cover. Great weedline spots include points, inside turns, and other irregularities. Head out to the middle of a lake and find the biggest bluegills among weedy humps and bars.

2 - Find Security Blankets

In reservoirs, flowages and other man-made waters, dark water limits weed growth by blocking sunlight. Bluegills need cover and will gravitate to whatever structure they can, such as rock piles and sandy or gravelly humps in the main lake; points; the edges of main river and creek channels; and man-made fish attractors.

3 - Keep It Calm

Any place the current softens to a standstill (or almost) is a good place to find river bluegills. Look for fish in brush or wood well off the main channel; log jams in slack water; deep backwaters with plenty of weeds or brush; slow or still side channels; and behind points where calm water pockets exist as the current deflects elsewhere.

4 - Moon Them

Some fish wait until full summer to spawn. These spawns usually occur during full moons. Explore spawning areas in July and

August and work deeper water - seven or eight to 10 or 12 feet, not the warm shallows.

5 - Think Small, Think Ice

Ice fishing baits, like waxworms, mousies and mealworms, are a summer-time treat, as are tiny minnows. Offer these baits to blue gills in conjunction with a tiny and shiny ice-fishing jig suspended below a tiny slip bobber or simply jig over the edge of your boat.

6 - Shimmy and Squirm

A shimmying and squirming leech really attracts summer bluegills and, perhaps, a bonus bass. Offer leeches below a slip bobber, or create a slip-sinker rig with a 1/8 to 1/4 ounce bullet sinker (for weed-free operation) ahead of a swivel, followed by 18-inches of four- or six-pound line and a size six or eight short-shanked hook. Work this rig right along

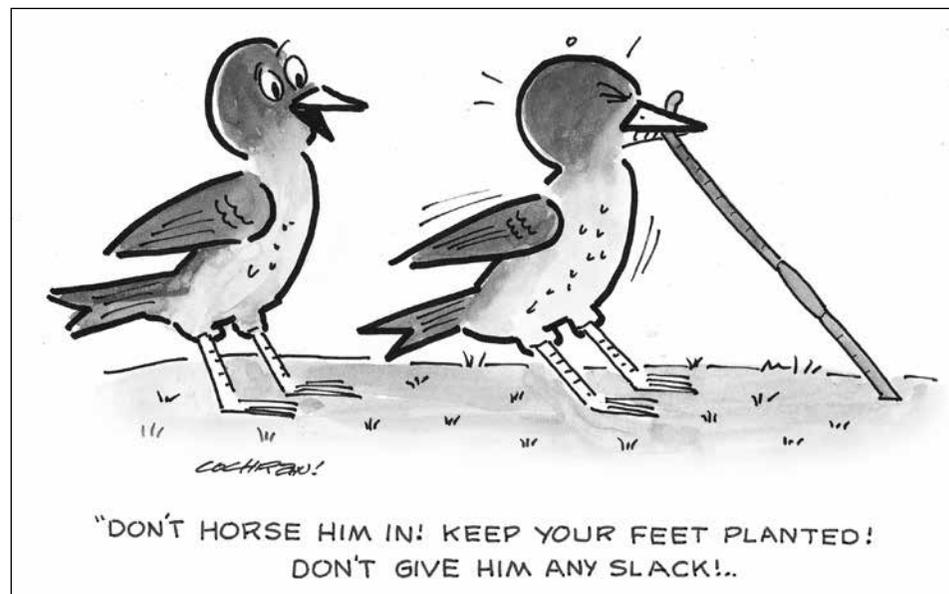


the deep weed edge in 10 to 20 feet of water.

7 - Rise to the Top

In the evening, bluegills will drift up from deeper water to smack insects off the water's surface. Fly-fishing gear of any type works well. Use a brightly colored popper, sponge

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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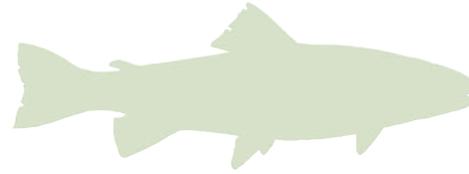
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DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report' Enough is enough



Tom Newcomb was a Northwoods fishing legend. Son of the much revered Dr. Kate Newcomb, he was born and raised on the Rice Creek Flowage just west of Boulder Junction. Dr. Newcomb is renowned in the Boulder Junction area for spearheading the construction of much needed medical facilities. Her son Tom guided much of his life (starting at the age of 12) and was inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Fortunately for me, Tom Newcomb was my junior high science teacher. He was also a role model and, as I grew into adulthood, a friend. Sharing time in a boat with Tom was always a treat and a learning experience. He once told me that sometimes he felt like he could will the fish to bite. That was well before Star Wars, so nobody had ever even heard about

using "the Force."

It's been well over 30 years ago now that some friends and I spent a day on the Rice Creek Flowage with Tom as he guided us to some nice walleyes. I don't remember exactly how many we caught or how big they were, but what I do remember was Tom declaring at some point, "I think we've killed enough today." And, with that, we happily pulled into shore to clean our fish and rehydrate with some cold fermented malt beverages.

But the words, "I think we've killed enough today," have always stuck with me.

Enough. There's a concept that some folks just never seem to come to grips with. How unfortunate it is for them and our natural resources for their inability to be satisfied with

The author's grandson Peter. Save some for the next generation.



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anything less than a limit. Sometime even a limit isn't enough. Maybe it's a limit in the morning and another one in the afternoon. Or, maybe it's catching limits from the same place day after day until there just aren't any more fish to be had. Whatever the case, it's never enough.

Growing up, catching a limit was always the goal. My parents lived through the Depression and I suspect that the compulsion to perpetually have a well stocked freezer was engrained as a result of the experience. As I amble rapidly into old age, there is no such compulsion for me anymore. Maybe I'm just getting lazy, but I really don't want to clean more than a dozen panfish at one sitting. Actually, half a dozen is enough for a nice meal for my wife and me.

I'm not preaching and I'm not condemning anyone for catching and keeping a limit now and then. But Tom

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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CAPTAIN LEE HAASCH

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My partner Capt. Trevor climbed topside as we left the harbor. It was going to be another warm one, with temperatures predicted to hit 90 degrees F, little wind and lots of sunshine. Typical July mornings on the Lake Michigan coast usually start a bit cooler than the balmy 82 degrees at 3:45 am. 2022's hot summer temperatures following a mild winter was certainly going to have an impact on how and where we fished.

The 15 pound weights on my downriggers would enable us to fish deeper later on, but as Trevor set his corner downrigger at 65 feet, the rod bent and the drag started screaming. As if on cue, the rod on my rigger popped and bent to the water, drag screaming in chorus. I kept setting the poles on my side and moved a few out of Trevor's way. As he scooped the first king, I moved to his side and set the rig back down. "Can't catch 'em if the baits aren't in the water," I chuckled to the customers.

For the next 45 minutes, Trevor kept busy grabbing the pounding rods, handing them to anglers and directing traffic

to keep the multiple fish attacks from crossing lines. It wasn't long and the adjustable trolling device on my side, now down to 150 feet of line, started pounding.

Steelhead, the Great Lakes' rainbow, will often stay near the surface where they can target bugs and still attack higher swimming alewife. While my larger, inside planer boards are pulling 10 ounce weights to reach the deeper kings, I keep at least one or two smaller planers on the outside of my spread, pulling a brightly colored spoon, usually with orange or red on silver to entice that occasional steelhead strike. Some mid-summer days, several higher baits per side are very effective in capturing those roaming steelhead.

As we enjoy a warm summer this season, don't forget to look deep for the kings as the surface temperature heats up. Running flasher/fly combos and glow spoons near thermoclines setting up down deep can entice hungry king action. I also try to keep a few spoons near the surface to tease some tail-dancing steelhead. There's nothing like a mixed bag in the cooler!



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Experience for yourself the great fishery Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma! For charter information and fishing reports, visit my website at: www.FishAlgoma.com or call 1-920-255-0604. From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 3, good luck and good fishing! 🎣

Capt. Lee Haasch is a charter captain out of Algoma. He has over 45 years of Great Lakes fishing experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with educational seminars and articles in outdoor publications.

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DENNY MURAWSKA

Imminent Lightning

A hair raising experience

Back when my dad was in his late seventies, I used to take him fishing for Father's Day. Each year, we headed out to Lake Geneva for night fishing with Bill Heim. Bill's boat was set up with large ultraviolet lights that lit up our fluorescent line. It was a blast to see it arcing through the air like a wayward meteor. It was on such a night that we had just begun a long hunt for smallmouth. The summer air was humid and dense, but no storms were forecast.

It was not long into the evening when I began to notice something odd about our glowing fishing line. Instead of settling down from the cast, it seemed to remain suspended, as though being tugged on by an unseen force. The tip of my graphite rod made an eerie buzzing sound. It dawned on me that this could be something very dangerous, and I asked Bill to remove his cap. Sure enough, his hair stood on end. Yes, we were in trouble. Having spent many years living in the Rockies, this occurred a number of times



to friends who warned me about pointy peaks and electricity. Cattle were often victims of strikes, and one of my best students was knocked from his horse by a bolt, waking up on his back some time later. I knew we were sitting under a highly charged cloud and could be ground zero for a lightning strike. Bill gunned the engine and our remaining hours were calm and quiet.

The science here is simple. When a charged object like a cloud approaches an uncharged object, it induces an opposite charge on the

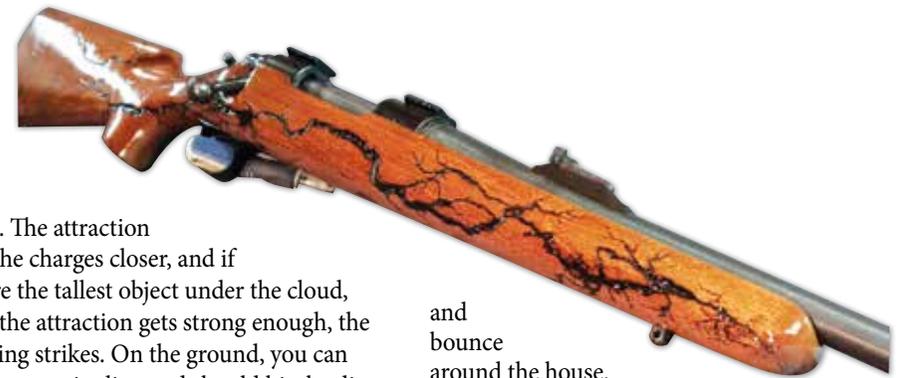
object. The attraction pulls the charges closer, and if you are the tallest object under the cloud, when the attraction gets strong enough, the lightning strikes. On the ground, you can feel a creepy tingling and should hit the dirt, getting as low as you can. On a flat lake, your snazzy aluminum boat and the guy waving a seven foot rod need to call it a day and fast.

There are many peculiarities about this potent force. On a positive note, it fixes nitrogen in the atmosphere into compounds that fertilize the soil. Rock hunters love to find where lightning has hit a sand beach. It fuses sand grains into wormlike glass objects known as fulgurites that are highly prized. It can form balls that enter through a window

and bounce around the house. People struck by lightning may have profoundly odd scars as a result, and even limbs that can turn white, black, or a skin color they were not born with.

Trees struck by lightning will exhibit patterns that can be made into unique - and expensive - firearm furniture.

Similar patterns, such as those pictured, can be achieved with a Lichtenberg Device or a less costly and user-friendly woodburning tool. Consult the internet for more information. 🙌



JAKE QUIGLEY

Kayak Wisconsin

The Eau Claire River

- May 30 Memorial Day
- Dells of the Eau Claire County Park to County Road N
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- Duration 3 hours and 15 minutes

The Eau Claire River offers a host of exciting rapids for kayaking along with gorgeous scenery. Among this tributary of the Wisconsin River's many notable features are boulder gardens, rock walls and Class I, II and III Rapids.

On Memorial Day, eight other kayakers and I took on one of the river's most challenging stretches. The weather was warm and sunny and we had scouted the river earlier looking for any challenges we might face along the way. I cannot stress enough the importance of researching and scouting before venturing on to a river. Know your limitations and do not rush into big rapids. It took me four years to reach Class III. Start with lakes before moving on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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LAUREN E. SEIFERT

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Our outstanding northwest woods location offers visitors jaw-dropping views of incredible landscapes along with many different ways to enjoy them.

Right in Spooner's backyard winds the Namekagon River, a 100-mile section of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway earning the name of "Wisconsin's Moving National Park." Immerse yourself in nature by tubing and fishing during the day and spending the evening at one of the Namekagon's primitive campsites.

There's plenty to do indoors when visiting Spooner. Voted 2022 Best of Washburn County Shopping, Downtown Spooner has something for everyone and is bursting with variety! Stop in one of our local art galleries, such as the Purple Pelican or Arts in Hand, and pick out and take home a unique piece of art by local artisans. Our streets are busting at the seams with charming specialty retail stores offering



Photo Credit: Spooner BID and Area Chamber of Commerce/James Netz Photography

baked goods, home furnishings, live plants, boutique clothing, books, board games, jewelry, sporting goods, and more!

After all that shopping, you'll want to recharge. Head to one of our local coffee shops or Washburn County's only craft brewery, Round Man Brewing Company, and treat yourself to a well-deserved beverage and delicious meal of

your choice.

No matter what kind of fun and excitement you're looking for this summer, one thing is certain: You'll find it in Spooner! What are you waiting for? Plan your epic trip today at www.spoonerchamber.org!

Lauren E. Seifert is a member of the Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

WILLIAM RUNGE

Old Wood Baits

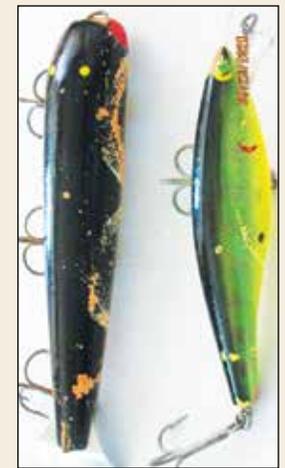
Scars tell the stories of yesterdays' battles. Take a look at your old worn wood baits. They will tell a story. Even old buck tails carry the scars of battle. These old warriors are like battle flags. Their colors faded and worn, not bright as they once were. Their new plastic replacements are almost indestructible and leave no memories.

Look at the scarred sides of any wood bait that has been used. Those treble hooks show no mercy to fish or wood. They leave a mark each time they are cast and retrieved.

Years ago I went to a demonstration to hear firsthand the sounds given off by plugs as they were retrieved. Four lures of the same kind were tested in a swimming pool with a hydrophone. No two baits of the same kind made the same sound. The sound was recorded on paper strips and compared. We tried buck tails, jerk baits and crank baits. The sounds were amazing. If we only knew what sound the fish liked best! This is why most anglers have two or three of the same type of baits in their tackle box.

The real story comes from the top side of the lure. If the paint is chipped and marked up where the hooks don't reach, you have a winner. Fish teeth did that and if you run your finger over the marks, you may find a broken tooth embedded in the wood.

When you are feeling down, open up your tackle box and check out your lures. I know you will smile as you remember the fish you caught on this plug or had a big one follow that crank bait. Those fish are now gone. Some you ate, some you released and some got away on their own. Each left a mark on you. As long as you can remember, you are like the old baits and can tell someone your story.



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BOB SPIERINGS

Bob's Bear Bait*Scent lures and how to use them*

Scent lures are a crucial and too often neglected ingredient for bear hunting success. In fact, the biggest mistake many bear hunters make is not using scent lures all season.

Your goal should be to have so many bears coming to your bait site that you can be picky about selecting which bear to harvest. If you're in a tough area without much of a bear population, scent lures can greatly increase your odds of attracting them.

Why Are Scent Lures Important?

Bears can smell seven times better than a bloodhound and pick up odors from over a mile away. Scent lures will help mask your own scent as well, but be sure to NEVER apply scent to yourself when hunting - for obvious reasons!

Scent lures attract new bear customers to your site and keep the regulars coming back for more. If mature bears don't sense a strong, tasty odor, they will assume you haven't baited and decide that it's too risky to otherwise take a chance. Seasoned hunters know that the sound of ATVs approaching bait stations is a dinner bell to a bear looking for an easy meal. Scent lures are what provides mature, wary bears the reassurance to enter a bait site.

How to Not Make This Mistake

Apply a scent lure every time you bait! A little goes a long way. You don't need to saturate your site with scent; just freshen it up a bit every time you bait. Use a variety of scents to keep bears interested.

How to Use Scent Lures

Scents come in a variety of types and applications. You can simply purchase a spray bottle and mix in our concentrated scent with some corn oil. The oil makes the scent water resistant and last longer in the heat. If you want to skip the hassle, just order our convenient premixed scents and you're instantly ready to hit the woods!

Bacon smear is a bear favorite. Ours is water resistant, packed with a strong odor and conveniently fits in your pocket. Just place a little on a rag or on the trees near your bait and you're set to go.

How to Maximize Your Scent Lures

The most effective way to maximize lures is to soak a rag in our concentrated anise scent solution and mix it with a little bit of corn oil for a couple of days. Find a sapling near your bait station that is at least 10 feet tall, bend it over far enough



Bears have a sense of smell seven times greater than a bloodhound and will follow their nose from great distances to your bait sites. Help bring them in with scents.

without breaking it, and tie your scent rag at the top or way out on one of the highest branches. Bears will eat the rag if they can get to it, so it's important to keep it just out of their reach or on some thinner branches that won't support their weight. This will bring your scent lures above the tree tops and into the wind, finally landing in the nostrils of bears miles away.

For more great tips, stop in and visit one of our multiple locations. We carry the largest variety of bear bait in Wisconsin, including scents, bulk bait, fruit toppings, dry bait, and more. Once the season begins, bait sells out fast. Don't wait long! 🐾

See our advertisement in this edition of *On Wisconsin Outdoors* for contact information.

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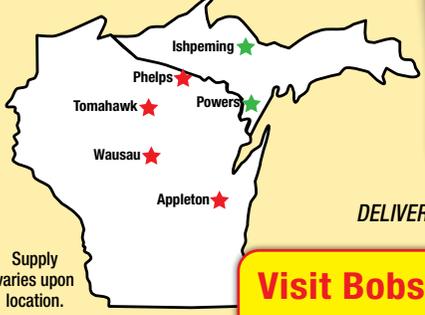
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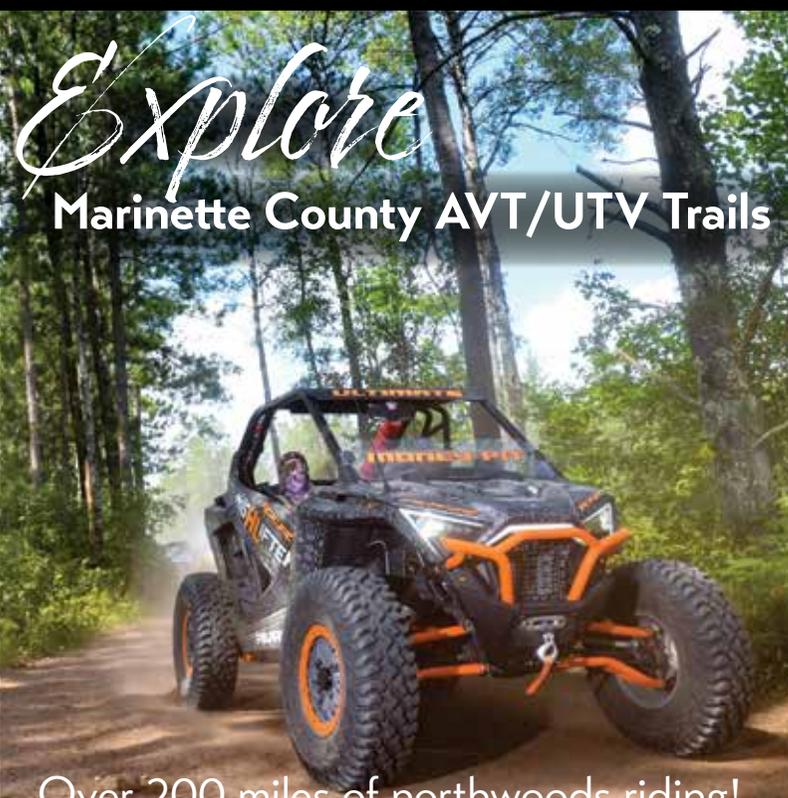





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JOHN CLER

Fire from the Forest

A survival skill that requires practice

Creating a fire from natural materials found in Wisconsin's fields and forests seems simple. There is plenty of combustible material available, so a short period of gathering and a flame from a match or lighter, and we should have a fire, right? Those with experience in the wild know things are seldom that simple.

Let's begin with some fire science. There are three phases of matter: solids, liquids and gases. Of the three, only gases will burn. "Well, what about gasoline?" you might ask. If you were to drop a lit match into a bowl of gasoline, it would only burn on the surface, where gasoline vapor is given off. Please do not try this at home, as they say.

The upshot of this is that if we want something solid to burn, we must supply enough heat to turn it into a vapor. We all know holding a candle under a six inch diameter log will not get that log to ignite. If we take that same log and shave it into small strips, we will have a much better outcome.



From left to right: Red Cedar bark, Birch bark, kindling, firewood. Ready for a flame to start the fire.

The key is to begin with small pieces of flammable solids, called "tinder." Tinder is a material that is small and flammable enough to burst into flame and create more heat to ignite larger pieces of material.

Natural tinder can be found if you know where to look. The best natural tinder is birch bark. Birch bark ignites easily, even when wet, as it contains an oil that vaporizes easily.



There are three species of birch in the Badger State. The familiar Paper Birch, the Yellow Birch and the River Birch all have a papery bark that can be stripped off easily. All are excellent tinder.

The Red Cedar also has bark that ignites easily. Small strips may be peeled off of these trees until a good sized hand-full is collected. The flammability of all tinders can

be increased by placing them between the palms of both hands and rubbing them back and forth. This results in tinder pieces that are smaller and more likely to become vaporized when a flame is introduced. A dry piece of wood may also be shaved into thin strips to produce tinder.

Kindling consists of small, dead, dry branches that are no larger than the length of a pencil. Dead, dry branches will break with a good snap when bent. If they do not break and snap easily, discard them. Firewood consists of pencil-sized and larger branches. Once you have assembled a supply of tinder, kindling and firewood, you can begin to build a fire.

A fire should be built, not started. You should be confident that a single flame will result in a good fire. This is important in a survival situation. Avoid starting something on fire and then begin searching for tinder and firewood.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



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TOM MUELLER

Developing a Lesson Plan

Improve your retriever training

Many retriever training books follow the same format. They start with a chapter or two of general information about training retrievers followed by instructions on how to get the pup started retrieving and obeying. They then delve into covering the steps involved in training a hunting retriever. Most of these books provide a complete training program from start to finish. Granted there are variations in each program from author to author, but each book will guide you through the process of teaching the concepts that your dog must learn.

Something that I've found helpful to augment any training program is to write a lesson plan for each concept that you want to teach, and then break it down into smaller steps. Working your dog through that process enables the retriever to learn more concepts faster and better. An example of a simple lesson plan for teaching a young dog to sit and to sit on the whistle would be to first teach "sit" using food rewards. Once it has learned to sit on command, introduce the whistle by saying "sit," followed by a single tweet on the whistle and a reward. The next step would be to give the single tweet on the whistle followed by the "sit" command and then working into just giving the single whistle tweet. Once the dog is reliably obeying the "sit" command both verbally and with the whistle, the

command can be reinforced with an electric collar.

Another training method that I use is to work on several concepts during one training session. With a young dog, I would first get it excited by teasing it with a dummy and then giving it a couple of short retrieves. Next, I would drill on the "fetch" and "hold" commands. After that I would have the pup sit and sit on the whistle as I walk with it on lead followed by more teasing with a dummy and a few short retrieves. Then I would let the dog run freely as we walk through the field. When it's not paying attention to me, I would call it to me to teach "here." After that I again would tease the dog and let it have a couple of short retrieves. To end the session, I might work on increasing distance of single retrieves followed by a few "fun retrieves." Each little lesson would only last five to 10 minutes, but the entire session would take about an hour. During that hour the dog can be trained on several different concepts.

Any concept can be broken down into smaller steps. A retrieve can have many elements added to it to increase your dog's capabilities. A simple single retrieve can be enhanced by working on the dog's line manners and steadiness when a duck call is blown, switching from dummies to birds, and firing numerous shots. Increasing or shortening the distance and running land, water, land retrieves, or adding changes in terrain and cover are steps that one can add to the single retrieve. Having the dog retrieve through decoys and from a boat, a blind, or a layout blind and doing multiple retrieves are elements that can be added to help it learn more. Adding these enhancements one-by-one as steps in a training plan will train your dog to become a retrieving machine. 🐾

Tom's passion for training retrievers began in the early 1980s. He now shares his skills teaching others how to train their retrievers at the Fox Valley Retriever Club. For more information contact Tom at winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com or Facebook.

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LEOVARDO AGUILAR

An Autumn Adjustment

First-time archery deer hunter takes turkey shot opportunity

Every hunter has their "go to" story. Mine just happens to also be about my first time hunting. Mike and I met through work a few springs ago. It didn't take long for the avid outdoorsman to catch wind that I'd never hunted before. Constantly sharing stories of his love for archery, it was clear Mike was trying to make a sportsman of me.

Soon enough, I had an old compound bow in my hands. Understanding my bow definitely took time, but by fall, my shooting was deemed satisfactory and I was invited to join Mike on his property.

The site was a promising mix of hardwood forest, swamp land and agricultural fields with a river that marked the western boundary. With multiple blinds and tree stands on site, Mike designated a spot for a beginner like me. Forest and field intersected in front while the river was a few yards behind. Any game that passed by would appear in an open shooting lane.

My excitement dwindled as the days passed without any sign of deer. If I was lucky, there was one running by in the distance. Red squirrels would visit, if only to taunt me. An array of birds called from near and far, including turkeys. As the days went past, I was able to pattern the flock. I noticed they made their rounds between neighboring properties and this one.

When I told Mike about the consistency of the flock, he nearly fell out of his chair. "Why didn't ya shoot 'em?" he groaned. I sheepishly commented they weren't in season, only to learn they were. I pulled out my phone to purchase the appropriate licenses right away. Those birds weren't going to pass me by again.

The next weekend, with tags (digitally) in hand, I cut through the darkness to my blind. Around roughly 9 am, clucks and



Ever since I picked up hunting, my mom has decided to drown me in blaze orange gear.

purrs were coming from the field across the river. Peering through binoculars, a turkey flock could be seen slowly working the ground near the waterfront. Around 10 am, the sound of beating wings crossing the river alerted me, prompting me to nocking an arrow. I watched as birds crested the ridge and filtered into the field.

Scanning the crowd, a lone hen became my first ever target. Moving painfully slow, my arms rose and drew the bow. The sight pin was aimed carefully when my finger curled around the release trigger. With a gentle squeeze, the arrow flew ahead. A small tuft of dust rose. My heart sank as I realized the arrow flew inches above the stationary bird.

There was some commotion in the flock, but I was able to set up for a second shot. With a shallow breath, another arrow was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

DAVE FIDLIN

Devil's Lake State Park

A truly heavenly experience

Despite being a lifelong Wisconsinite, my first foray into the vast wonders of Devil's Lake State Park only occurred eight years ago. I still recall what was running through my head as I ventured to the top of one of the bluffs. "Why didn't I come here sooner?" I asked myself in that maiden hike on the outskirts of the equally intriguing community of Baraboo.

I knew Wisconsin had a bounty of beauty through such unique areas as the Kettle Moraine State Forest (closer to home for yours truly), but Devil's Lake completely blew me away with its distinct, undeniable beauty. It almost seemed surreal I actually was in my own home state.

Devil's Lake's name most certainly is deceptive, for the 360-acre body of water and all of its majestic surrounding landscape offer visitors a truly heavenly experience. The park's situation along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a noteworthy accent.

I've been back to Devil's Lake on multiple occasions since that first hike and photography exhibition in 2014. I've taken in an assortment of views from the various bluffs, some stretching as high as 500 feet in height.

Taking in various vantage points is possible, thanks to a robust trail system. There are approximately 30 miles of

different hiking trails which are designed for varied skill levels. I will admit I had to push myself on my first visit, but the reward from atop was unforgettable. My breath was taken away, and not just because I was huffing and puffing from that hike.

Since the official state park portion of Devil's Lake is under the auspices of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, there are fees involved, such as the requisite vehicle admission stickers needed to park.

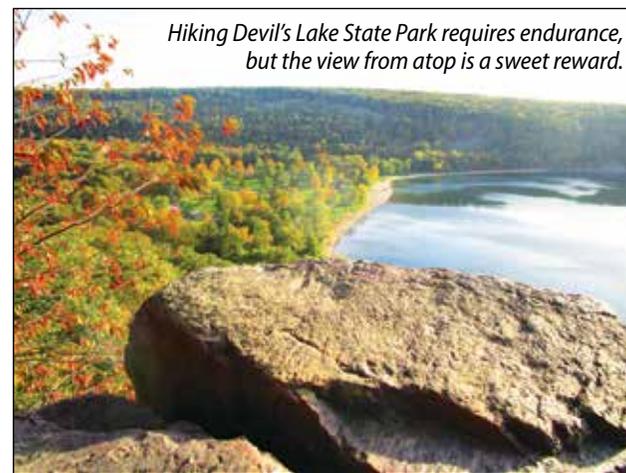
As a state park, the venue also offers visitors a variety of other recreational opportunities beyond hiking. Along the lake, for instance, visitors can swim in designated beachfront areas and enjoy paddling. The park also is an ideal picnic spot.

Camping is another popular attraction at Devil's Lake - it's so popular, in fact, that DNR officials recommend people plan far enough in advance because spots fill up quickly, particularly in the peak summer months.

Devil's Lake State Park has three different campgrounds (Ice Age, Northern Lights and Quartzite), encompassing a total of 423 individual sites that are ideal for one to six people. The park site also has nine group campsites that can accommodate larger congregations of outdoor enthusiasts.

What's great about Devil's Lake, and so many other notable

Hiking Devil's Lake State Park requires endurance, but the view from atop is a sweet reward.



parks across Wisconsin, is the site offers a little of something for everyone. I've tried different activities on each visit and have always left satisfied with a greater appreciation for my home state. I can't wait for my next visit to this majestic wonder. 🍷



The lake itself is an ideal spot to enjoy a picnic, take in the sunset or any other leisurely activity.

Dave Fidlín is a Wisconsin-based freelance writer and a Horicon native. He credits his formative years within the "City on the Marsh" for his love of the outdoors and his respect for all creatures great and small.

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RICH PALZEWIC

Rails to Trails

Mountain-Bay State Trail is a three county gem

The Mountain-Bay State Trail is one of the longest rail trails in Wisconsin, traveling 83 miles between Weston (near Wausau) and Green Bay. An abandoned railroad bed, the surface is mostly crushed limestone/gravel and hard-packed, with steep banks in places. Mountain bikes, fat bikes or cross bikes are best suited for the trail. Road bikes and their skinny tires aren't conducive for such terrain. Horses are allowed in some areas, but the trail is closed to all motor vehicle traffic.

Traveling through Brown, Shawano and Marathon counties, some of the main cities it passes through are Wausau, Weston, Bowler, Shawano, Bonduel, Pulaski, Howard and Green Bay.

Even after heavy rains, the trail drains nicely – at least in the sections I've ridden in Brown County. There is a small gap in the trail near Shawano by the Wolf River where local roads are utilized. Runners/walkers don't need a state trail pass, but any bicyclist – or horseback rider – age 16 or older will need one while using the trail. With several entry points along the way, payment kiosks are plentiful - \$5 for a daily pass or \$25 for an annual. Revenue raised from the sale of the passes helps the counties keep the trail clean and maintained.

Several years ago, a friend and I biked the entire length of the trail in one day – starting at the most eastern end in

Howard at about 7 am and finishing about 10 hours later. We stopped in Shawano for breakfast and in Bowler for lunch. You'll want to carry snacks if you plan to bike that much in one day; in some areas, the distance between services is quite far.

The trail is mostly pancake-flat, but there are a few gentle rises. Generally speaking, the trail travels slightly uphill from east to west, but it's not too noticeable. Being a flat trail might seem great, but it's not all fun and games. When biking up and down hills, if you're tired, you can coast on the way down and still travel a good distance without working. On a flat section, if you stop pedaling, your bike stops, too – you don't get a break, and your legs are constantly engaged.

I might be biased, but I believe the Brown County section is the best – it's wide, has a nice surface, is scenic and doesn't have weeds invading it. My favorite section is a ride through a tunnel a few miles from the eastern end. You'll also pass over several rivers on wooden bridges.

Because it's more remote, the Shawano County section doesn't get as much traffic, so it's harder to maintain, with some spots grown over with weeds. The Marathon County section is also nice – similar to the Brown County part. I haven't ridden the Shawano and Marathon sections enough to give an accurate assessment.



A rider on a fat bike travels on the Mountain-Bay State Trail in Howard. The trail is 83 miles long and goes from Howard to Weston.

You'll likely see some wildlife on the trail, such as deer, turkeys, and rabbits, but be careful of the gopher holes. If you're not paying attention and hit one with your front tire, it could throw you off your bike.

Generally speaking, the Mountain-Bay State Trail is a gem of a trail where a person can get lost in its scenery and peacefulness.

Get out and enjoy! 🍷

Rich Palzewic grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with six sisters. He taught school in Rhinelander for 11 years before moving to Green Bay in 2007. He's currently the sports editor of The Press Times newspaper.

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AL WISNEFSKE

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I totally get why sellers are reluctant to sell. If they sell their property, where are they going to move? There is the ordeal of dealing with a parade of interested buyers, many of whom can't follow simple directions, that are about to march onto the seller's property. Within 15 minutes of a property's availability popping up online, there will be people who feel the need to immediately do a drive-by. Then there is the constant flow of offers that will have to be looked at.



I'm with sellers. As good as the market is, it can be a tough decision to sell.

What, then, do you do? What's the alternative?

Well you could sit and do nothing. No one is forcing you to make a change. You could "test the market" and go through a bunch of showings with an overpriced property only to have your listing expire.

OR you could sell your property the right way by partnering with the right people.

In the beginning of this article, I laid out what you need to be worried about in this low-inventory market. I'm someone that shares those frustrations with you. But I do it with a level head and calm demeanor to make it enjoyable and, ultimately, get you across the finish line.



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Road America

Historic race cars and echoes of the past

It has been 72 years since racers tore through the streets of this tiny village about 60 miles north of Milwaukee. Still, every summer, you would swear time stood still when the sounds of historic race cars from days gone by echo throughout the surrounding hillsides.

Racing came to Elkhart Lake in 1950, with cars competing against the backdrop of the countryside course. In 1953, auto racing was banned on open roads in Wisconsin. As a result, the need for a real racetrack became apparent and Road America was established, with the first event taking place in 1955. Clif Tufte designed the four-mile, 14-turn road course as an adaptation to the existing hillside commonly known in eastern Wisconsin as the Kettle Moraine - complete with corners and straightaways that have taken on names of their own, based mainly on their configuration, but more often the intimidation level.

With radical elevation changes, tree-lined straights, and flowers blooming at every turn, Road America's four spectacular miles are in a one-of-a-kind class with racers the world over. At the same time, photographers view it as a paradise for split-second shutters and scenic backgrounds. Load up the family and come witness the power, pageantry and picturesque landscapes of Road America, a track that is every bit as impressive as the cars that will compete all summer long.

If you want to take a break from the action, you can do that, too. Many vendors are offering exceptional food and beverages at reasonable prices. Feeling the need to take a walk and stretch your legs? Road America has more than 600 acres of rolling hills, trails, and grounds to explore.

Looking for affordable family fun? Not unlike a national park, perhaps even more so, Road America is an excellent place to camp. Pop-ups, RVs, and tents are welcome. There are approximately 1,600 campsites (you'll need to pre-register) to select from, each with its attributes. Parking is FREE and plentiful, and there are ample restrooms and showers and lots of places to hike, eat, relax, and enjoy things to do, such as disc golfing, the Family Fun Zone (at select events), and go-karting.

Considering that Road America is one of the world's most illustrious racing courses, one might think that the price of admission would be out of this world. Think again.

Admission for a typical weekend event is about \$80 per person. Plus, kids 16 and under get FREE general admission to all Road America season racing events with a paying adult at the gate. Veterans and active military also receive FREE admission to select events. For tickets or learn more about upcoming events at Road America, please visit Road America online at www.roadamerica.com or call 800-365-RACE (7223).

Here's a snapshot for what's happening in July and August:

A mid-summer favorite, the WeatherTech® International Challenge with Brian Redman at Road America taking place July 14-17 is one of the largest vintage racing events in the United States. The WeatherTech® International Challenge road race features over 400 cars competing in several groups. The 2022 event at Road America will also feature a special All American Racers (AAR) Eagle racer reunion. AAR designed and built just 158 Eagle racing cars between 1965 and 2012. Come out to Road America to witness this impressive racing legacy.

The IMSA SportsCar Championship and IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge return to Road America's four-mile circuit August 4-7, 2022, for what will be one of the most incredible weekends of sports car racing in the world. Fans will get to experience the 4-hour IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge race on Saturday followed by the WeatherTech® SportsCar Championship race on Sunday. The IMSA weekend schedule will also include the IMSA Porsche Carrera Cup North America and Lamborghini Super Trofeo races.

The SRO GT World Challenge America headlines an all SportsCar weekend at Road America August 19-21, 2022. This weekend of thrilling sportscar racing will bring exotic GT3 machinery from global brands like Acura, Aston Martin, Audi, BMW, Ferrari, Lamborghini, McLaren, Mercedes-AMG, and Porsche. These performance racing machines will take to the popular 4-mile, 14-turn road race circuit as part of a global championship spanning Europe, Asia, Australia, and America. The SRO GT World Challenge will showcase two 90-minute races featuring full-service pit stops, driver changes, and non-stop excitement.

In addition, the weekend will feature the Pirelli GT4 America, GT America, and TC America powered by Skip Barber for a jam-packed weekend of sports car racing. 🏁





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SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD LAKES



MATT OSTRANDER

A First-time Paddle Boarder Shares the Risks Worth Taking

Since I work at the Hayward Lakes Visitor Center, I like to keep up with what visitors are doing. Turns out many of them are paddleboarding, and since I'd never tried it, I decided to give it a go.

My wife and I camped for three nights alongside a lake, and we brought along a couple of borrowed boards. We were able to paddleboard twice during our mini-vacation: once for about an hour, and the second time for a good two hours.

Despite my lack of experience, I approached the adventure with confidence. I am reasonably athletic, and I have fifty years of canoeing experience, so how hard could it be?

I knelt on my board, pushed well clear of the dock, and gingerly stood up. For the first few minutes, my knees trembled and I was a little wobbly. I turned the board around, assumed more of a bent-knee ready position, and concentrated on becoming one with the waves. It was at that point that my wife snapped the accompanying photo of me:

I decided to paddle to the far end of the lake and back, while my wife was content to stop at a sandy beach and swim.



When I got to the far end and executed a quick turnaround, a kind elderly woman in an Adirondack chair called out, "You're looking pretty good on that thing!" So that was nice.

I had one minor fall from my board. A narrow gap in the lake was occupied by three teenagers in inner tubes. Wanting to be courteous, I paddled six feet to the side of them... and

promptly bumped my keel on a sandbar. The board stopped more suddenly than I did. The wonderful thing that happened isn't that the board and I were unhurt: it was that the teenagers didn't laugh loudly enough for me to hear.

Here are a few simple tips for others who are new to the sport:

Wear a life jacket, and connect yourself to the board with a springy leash designed for that purpose.

Push away from the dock before you try to stand up. You may be hard-headed, but a dock is harder.

If you start to fall, just fall. After all, it's only water! Trying to catch yourself is a great way to get hurt.

And finally, don't be afraid of looking stupid – that's an essential risk in all great adventures!

For more information on the Hayward Lakes Area, visit www.haywardlakes.com or 715-634-4801. 📍

Matt Ostrander is the Hayward Lakes Visitor Center Information Specialist.

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A true getaway for outdoor enthusiasts, Burnett County is your premier Northwest Wisconsin destination. Visit burnettcounty.com for more information.

DUWE, FROM PAGE 2

indicate strikes and to hold the line when the reel is in free spool for the hits that come fast and furious.

The baits of choice for me are medium and large suckers. They have the ability to survive being cast more than a fragile golden shiner. Golden shiners are very soft in the heat of the summer and die easily. Even though the suckers are pretty durable, you still need to have a gentler cast and avoid slapping the bait on the water.

The location of the fish I target will be less than 10 feet of water. On the sizzling summer days, the bass are on the deep weedline, but

with a cold front or a rain event, the bass will move into the shallows. I like areas where there are scattered weeds associated with hard bottom, adjacent to the deep-water haunts. Once you locate a prime area, the bass tend to be in large schools, and you can catch over ten fish in a very small area.

I know that some fishing purists always use artificial baits, but sometimes the tried-and-true live bait is required to put fish in the boat. Plus, who doesn't enjoy watching a bobber go under? 🎣

David Duwe fishes the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin and can be reached at 262-728-8063.

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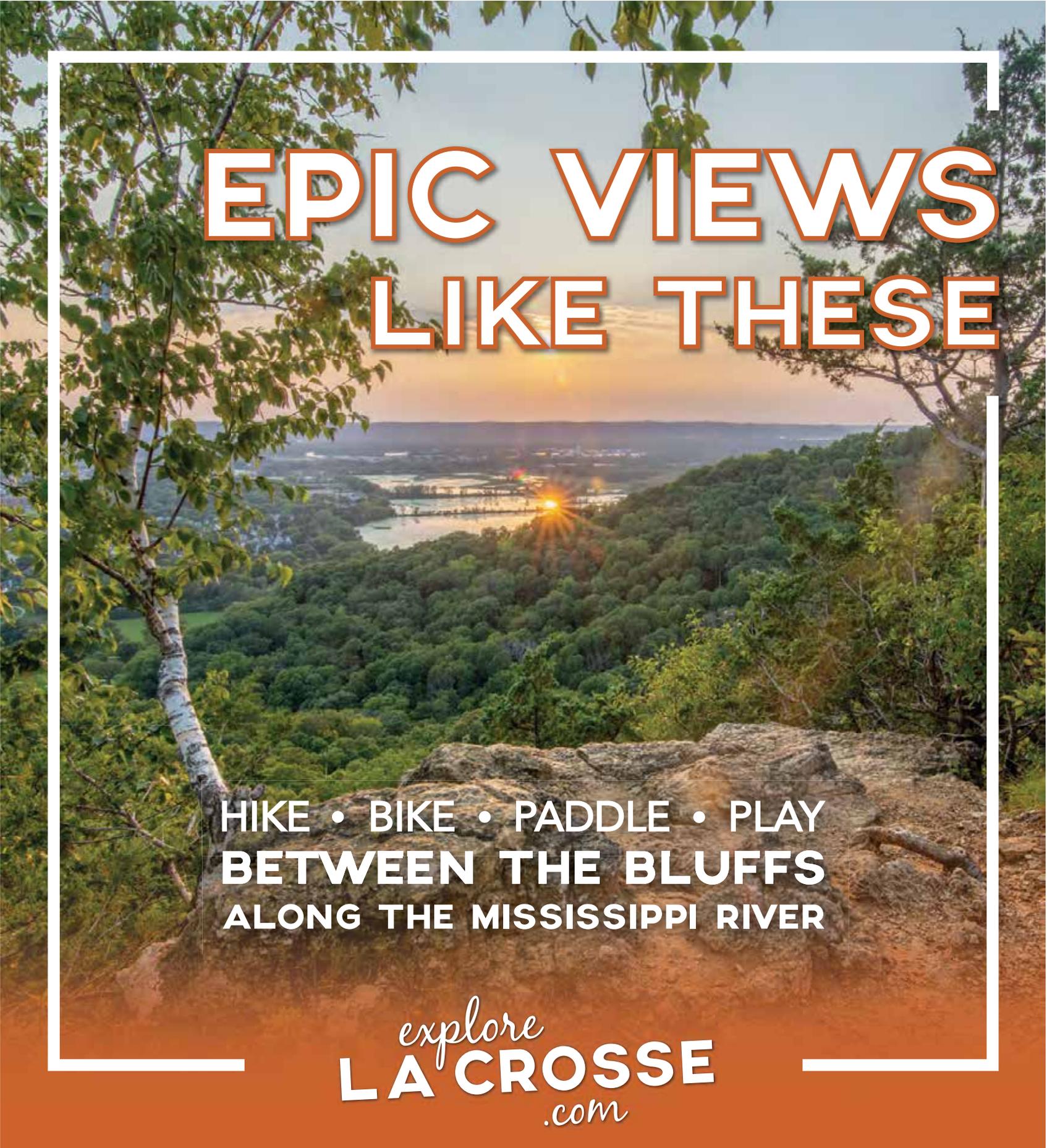


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JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER

What's Happened to the American Family?

How did an 18 year-old become so deranged that he shot his grandmother in the face and went on to kill 21 people, 19 of them children? It's the right question to be asking. Instead, the political jockeying is in high gear, abetted by a media that abandoned journalistic ethics long ago to pursue political agendas. Gun violence is the term used to deflect from the truth. It's murder.

If we the people are serious about changing the course we're on, we're going to have to take a long, hard look in the mirror. Here's the truth. Too many children are not being taught how to live. They are not being taught right from wrong by two married parents, in the home, who understand that once they bring a child into this world, their primary responsibility is raising that child. 40% of kids born in the United States today are born to single mothers. There is a close relationship between married parents and economic well-being, and it's clear that childrearing is a difficult and consuming job that requires two parents whenever possible.

In 1970 my brother returned from Vietnam with a rifle seized from the North Vietnamese during the invasion of Cambodia. My 15 year-old brother couldn't wait to take that gun on the school bus to New Berlin High School to show his friends and teachers. No one was concerned. What's changed?

In the aftermath of the Jacob Blake shooting, I heard Pastor James Ward say that we are not teaching morality to our children. He said you can give a good man the code to our nuclear arsenal and we'll all be safe and you can give a bad man a pencil and your life will be at risk. He was right.

As governor, I will:

- Always challenge us to confront the truth.
- Use critical thinking when addressing issues rather than stoking emotions.
- Provide the leadership required to influence the kind of society we want to be.
- Reject any attempts to infringe on the right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms.

**Want to learn more about Joan?**

She would love to come and talk with your group. Please contact her at Beglingerforgovernor.com to make arrangements. You can also listen, and watch for her, on your local radio station, or TV affiliate.

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."*George Washington*

Arnold Friberg painted "The Prayer at Valley Forge" to celebrate our country's bicentennial in 1976. His now famous painting has been an important part of American history—reminding us of the days our country hung in the balance.

It was during the cold, long winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge that General Washington sought God's help, in the woods, alone and on his knees, a story well documented in the historical records. Isaac Potts, 26, was a resident of Valley Forge, and a Quaker opposed to the war. He supervised the grinding of the grain which Washington ordered the neighboring farmers to bring to his army, and came upon the scene never to be forgotten.

"I tied my horse to a sapling and went quietly into the woods and to my astonishment I saw the great George Washington on his knees alone, with his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other," said Potts. "Such a prayer I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying. I went home and told my wife, 'I saw a sight and heard today what I never saw or heard before. We never thought a man could be a soldier and a Christian, but if there is one in the world, it is Washington. We thought it was the cause of God, and America could prevail.'"

JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER

Abortion is Not Healthcare

We are a country divided politically, because we are a country divided fundamentally. Increasingly these divisions are between those who seek truth, those who want to bury it, and those who can't find it through all the deception. As a leader in the healthcare industry for nearly 30 years, this is what I know is true.

Abortion is intentionally killing a human life—a unique individual with his or her own DNA from conception. "Reproductive rights" is a term used to deflect from this truth. Abortion is not healthcare.

As Governor, I will:

Use my authority to prevent any public money from being used to fund abortion.

Promote honest discussion on the issue to help bring about the cultural change we desperately need.

Abortion should be unthinkable in Wisconsin. To get there, we will have to decide who we want to be, and change many hearts and minds. This will require a leader who speaks truthfully and is unwilling to reduce something so important to soundbites for political gain. I am uniquely qualified, and prepared to do this. 🇺🇸

JIM ELLIS

Wolf Mismanagement

The logic factor in the decline of northern Wisconsin deer hunting

In a recent issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*, I looked at the decline in deer hunting success over the past two decades in Wisconsin, and asserted that the three biggest problems were wolves, Chronic Wasting Disease, and poor management of both by the DNR.

In this issue, I'll look with more detail at wolves.

As I write, a federal judge has relisted the wolf as endangered. To show how ridiculous this is, I found the "Summary of the Wisconsin DNR Wolf Management Plan, Prepared by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on October 27, 1999."

According to the summary:

Numerical Targets and State Reclassification/ Delisting/ Relisting Criteria

Minimum population management goal is 350 (late winter counts) outside of Indian Reservations.

250 wolves (outside reservations) for one year - State delists and wolves become "protected non-game species."

80 for three years (already achieved) - State reclassified to threatened (done in October 1999).

Decline to less than 250 for three years - State relists as threatened.

Decline to less than 80 for one year - State relists/reclassifies as endangered.

Under Habitat Protection in the summary, it calls for vegetation management that provides younger forests and winter vegetation cover that favor wolf-prey species (deer and beaver).

Population Management

Four management zones are established to provide different wolf management practices. However, after the wolf is Federally delisted, Tribes will determine wolf management practices on tribal lands.

Zone 1 - Northern Forest - 18,384 square miles in northern Wisconsin, including 634 square miles of Indian reservation; contains 90 percent of the state's primary wolf habitat and can support 300 - 500 wolves.

Depredation problems will be resolved by government



The use of hounds to push wolves past hunters with firearms is often criticized as "barbaric" by anti-hunting groups who thrive on misinformation. This photo of wolves eating a large buck alive emphasizes the need for proper game management in Wisconsin, including the proper balance of predator and prey currently lacking.

trapping within 1/2 mile of the depredation site and translocation or euthanizing. Landowners will be reimbursed for their losses to wolf predation. Management actions to be encouraged on public land include protection of dens and rendezvous sites, access management and management of forests to promote prey species. There will be no coyote hunting during the deer firearm season.

Words have meaning.

1) According to the report, Zone 1 is 90 percent of the state's primary wolf habitat and can support 300 to 500 wolves. So, statewide, the maximum that can be supported is 555 wolves.

2) Currently, according to the Wisconsin Gray Wolf Monitoring Report (April 15, 2019, through April 2020), the wolf population count is 1,034 - 1,057. That is a minimum of 697 wolves over carrying capacity in the state based on the Wisconsin DNR's own plan.

Based on information I have received from a member of the wolf advisory board and the survival rate of pups, it's likely that the population is 5,000 wolves. If this is correct, we're 4,640 wolves over the number that the habitat can support.

3) According to the report, Zone 1 is 18,384 square miles and includes 634 square miles of Indian reservation. The Indian reservation makes up 3.4% of this area so they can manage 12 - 17 wolves based on the statement under



This trail cam photo taken in Bayfield County in 2022 captures a gray wolf with bear cub in its mouth.

"population management" that Tribes will determine management practices on tribal lands.

4) At the time of the summary, Wisconsin's deer herd was 1,900,000 strong and could support up to 555 wolves.

5) Wisconsin's deer herd is currently 1,250,000. That's 35 percent less deer, so logically we can now support 360 wolves statewide.

Zone 2, according to the summary, could support 20 - 40 wolves.

Zone 3, according to the summary, could support 20 wolves maximum.

Zone 4 has almost no potential for wolf colonization.

After the state delisted, landowners can kill wolves in the act of attacking pets or livestock. Currently this is not allowed.

Public Harvest is not included in this plan summary, but it does discuss the possibility of public harvest after the statewide population (outside Indian reservations) reaches 350 wolves.

Based on this plan and all of the data, there is no way the wolves should be relisted, and it's the duty of the Wisconsin DNR to challenge this ruling in a higher court.

If we're going to get back to the days of great deer hunting and all of the benefits that go along with it, we're going to have to demand that we manage the wolves back to 360 - the supportable number based on the current deer population in the great state of Wisconsin. 🐾

CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 3

bug, or most any dry fly. If you prefer spinning or spin cast gear, tie the popper, bug or fly directly to your line and clip on a float about two feet ahead so that you can cast your offering. Work it back slowly with little twitches.

8 - Try Some Dam Hard Work

On a farm pond, start your search along the dam or dike. A pond's deepest water sits at the base of this manmade structure. Use a slip-bobber rig at different depths until you

find fish. Inlets of fresh water are also good places to look for sunfish.

9 - Bug Them

Crickets and grasshoppers make great bluegill bait. To fish them dry, hook them lightly through the collar using a light-wire size eight hook and clip a small bobber two feet ahead. Add a split shot between hook and bobber to fish them wet.

Summer bluegill fishing can be a challenge, but well worth the effort. 🐾

MOERICKE, FROM PAGE 4

Newcomb was a smart man and a true conservationist. When he said, "I think we've killed enough today," I think that's something worth putting in your repertoire. Know when to say when. Enough is enough.

Just sayin? 🐾

Dan Moericke lives, hunts, and fishes in Wisconsin's great Northwoods. He is blessed with an understanding wife, a great group of friends, and a family who all enjoy the outdoors as much as he does. His stories are mostly true.

QUIGLEY, FROM PAGE 8

to rivers and slowly work your way up as your skills progress.

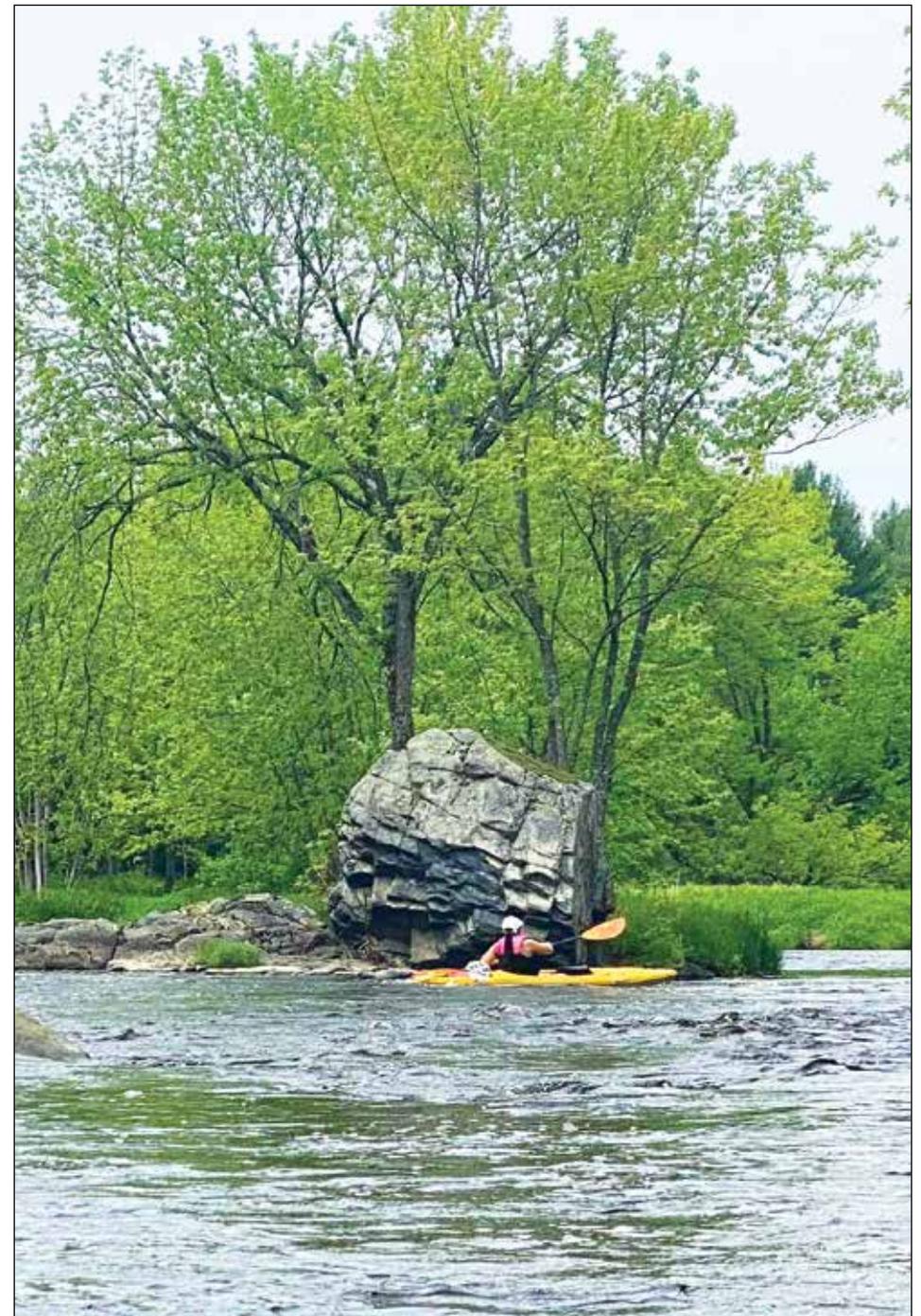
We launched just below the rocks at Dells of Eau Claire Park. Rapids were loud and excitement was high. One-by-one we hopped in our kayaks and one-by-one we began our trip. Consistent Class I and II rapids for the first mile set the tone for an exciting trip. The first set of rapids quickly took us under a beautiful stone and wooden bridge that arched overhead.

At Sandberg Island we came upon the trip's first fork. Going left offered more scenery, but fewer rapids. A right turn led to much rougher waters and rapids. We cut right and headed for the bigger rapids that included boulder gardens and ledge drops throughout the winding path. After a time, the river calmed down and provided us with a breather after the excitement of the rapids.

Calm waters and good conversation helped make for a great time. We took a quick break for snacks and to stretch out before moving on. I thought that we had already experienced the largest rapids of our journey. Little did I know that the most exciting part was yet to come. The second island after County Road Z again presented us with two options: Go to the right and experience Class I rapids or take

a left for the well-known ledges. The front of our group went to the right. My friend Devin and I got closer to the path on the left and realized we couldn't see any more of the river. It vanished - which indicated a very large drop. Devin and I went for it. Both of us conquered the Class III. By the time we were at the bottom, there were pools in our kayaks from the rushing water.

The other members of our group regretted not taking the left fork and the more challenging option. They won't make that mistake again when we come back for more of the Eau Claire River! 🙌



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July 23rd

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SHERRY QUAMME

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Don't miss River Bluff Daze on July 23. This free event features an antique and kiddie tractor pull, great food and beverages, nature hike and a grand fireworks display over the Mississippi River at dusk. A farmers market will take place with food, music, arts, crafts, lots of vendors and more.

September marks the beginning of bird migration season. Join us and don't forget your binoculars to better view the white pelicans, hawks, falcons, eagles, and great variety of small birds that will fill the air. September is also Drive the Great River Road month. The road is one of America's longest and oldest scenic byways where vibrant colors paint the trees and festivals, and farmers' markets and many other autumn activities await our visitors' discovery.

Fall Fest takes place at Sugar Creek Park on September 17. Visit the many vendors who will be offering crafts, seasonal produce, pumpkins for carving, food, beverages, and much more. Your great time is our guarantee. 🍂

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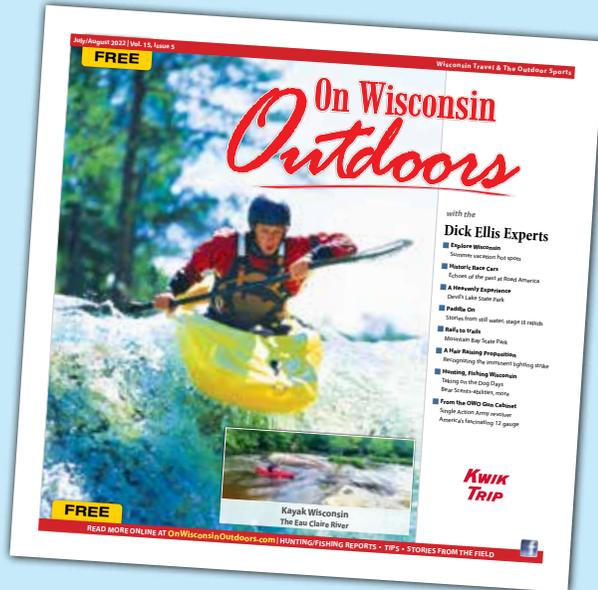
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On The Cover

Wisconsin offers water for the beginner to the expert paddler, as Jake Quigley and kayaking friends discover on the Eau Claire River and first time paddleboarder Matt Ostrander finds on more tame water near Hayward.



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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

An American Fascination Enamored with the 12 Gauge

I had posted a picture on Facebook of pheasants taken during a snowy winter here in Wisconsin. A hunter from Greece commented, asking, "Why are Americans enamored with the 12gauge?" Apparently the Greek hunter thought a 12 gauge shotgun was overkill for late winter pheasants. I explained late season birds often flushed at 30 yards or more, were heavily feathered and stout loads of coarse shot were needed for clean kills. His reply was, "But you even use them for doves and quail." Why yes, we do! I went on to explain that from woodcock to whitetails, the 12 gauge does it all. Any wonder the 12 gauge is the almost universal choice for clay target shooters, hunters, law enforcement, and the military?

If I lived in sunny Greece and all I hunted were the local quail, doves and hares, I suppose a 20 gauge would fit the bill. Yes, a 20 gauge is lighter, and when I go on all day squirrel hunts in the Shimek State Forest in Iowa, I carry either my 20 gauge pump or 16 gauge single shot. Living here in Wisconsin, I can find myself hunting Canada geese and mourning doves on the same day. Or even small game and whitetail deer in the same weekend. All I do is change the ammunition, and a 12 gauge shotgun will carry the load. Unparalleled versatility is the reason for the 12 gauge shotgun's popularity.

The 12 gauge can fill many roles. For clay targets, 12 gauge light target loads are available as light as 7/8 ounce. That's a basic 20 gauge target load. Twelve gauge clay target

loads are normally 1 to 1-1/8 ounce. Twelve gauge hunting loads run from 1-1/8 ounce light field loads to heavy 1-1/4 and 1-3/8 ounce heavy field loads. Bump the case up to three inches, and you can stuff 1-7/8 to a full 2 ounces of shot into a 12 gauge hull. That's a basic 10 gauge load! One reason for the decline of the 16 gauge was low cost 12 gauge, 2 ounce game loads that cost far less than the average box of 1 ounce, 16 gauge hunting shells.

Big game and predator hunting is another area where the 12 gauge shines. Over the years, I'm sure I have harvested close to 40 deer with 12 gauge slugs in Wisconsin and Iowa. A 1 ounce lead slug at 1,600 fps will crush even the biggest whitetail buck. Load your shotgun with #4 or 00 buck for wolves,

Author with nine-point buck. A single, one ounce, 12 gauge slug dropped this buck in his tracks! Photo by the author.



coyotes, bobcat or fox.

When George Washington crossed the Delaware to attack Trenton on Christmas Eve, some of his men were farmers who brought their shotguns. Used at close range, they helped defeat a professional army of Hessian mercenaries, who were regarded as some of the best soldiers in Europe at the time. Pump action Winchester shotguns worked so well in WWI, the Germans wanted them outlawed by the Geneva Convention.

Yes, we Americans love the 12 gauge. It does it all! 🍷

STUART WILKE

The Single Action Army Revolver Affordable, available, beautiful and...recommended

Horses scare me. I've never felt the need to lasso a calf. Cowboy hats and boots bring Howdy Doody to my mind. Movie westerns strike me as generally bad and their heroes' feats of marksmanship so fantastical as to be ludicrous.

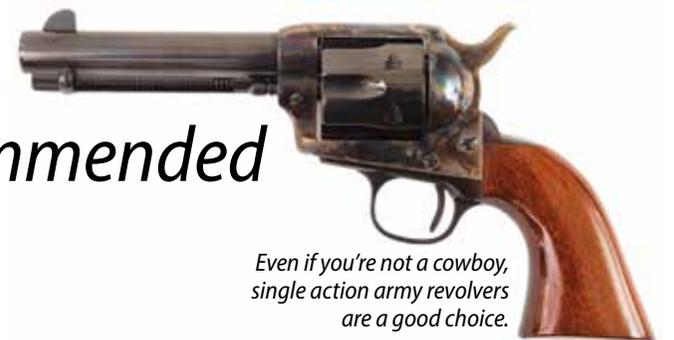
Despite all of the above, I sure do like the single action army (SAA) revolvers cow guys and gals pack in westerns, which apparently makes me an anomaly. SAAs tend to languish on dealer shelves nowadays while more modern pistols fly out the door. The heyday of the SAA was in the 1950s and '60s and coincided with the popularity of TV westerns. Colt, the company most associated with SAAs, was caught with their chaps down when the market exploded with shows like Hopalong Cassidy, the Virginian, Maverick and many more. Colt had stopped SAA production in 1940 and scrapped the tooling. The fledgling Sturm, Ruger and Great Western Arms companies, along with countless Italian clones, filled the void. Colt eventually entered the SAA market in the late 1950s. Centerfire versions are still manufactured in very limited numbers by the company, but the cost is exorbitant and they

are often bought as investments.

SAA sales waned as the popularity of western-themed movies and TV shows declined. There was a brief renaissance when competitive Cowboy Action Shooting was a thing, but that sport generally only appealed to Baby Boomers, the same folks who watched westerns years ago and are declining in numbers. The shooting sports are more popular than ever, as witnessed by the growing number of young people participating in sporting clays and three gun competition. But young people gravitate towards more modern and practical firearms.

Still, SAAs possess a number of attributes worth considering. On top of that list is aesthetics, something sorely lacking in today's polymer pistols, in my view. A Colt SAA and its copies are simply pleasing to the eye, not unlike Lugers, Model 94 Winchesters and Purdy shotguns. Somehow, the lines of these guns, their finish, quality, proportions and elegance just appeals to most people. As functional as they are, no one has ever said that Glock look good.

In terms of functionality, SAAs come up well short of



Even if you're not a cowboy, single action army revolvers are a good choice.

Glocks and similar polymer pistols. Unless they have a real hammer blocking mechanism, an original style six-shooter should only be loaded with five cartridges and the hammer resting over an empty chamber. Drop a traditional SAA with the hammer over a cartridge and there is a chance it will go off. Employing an SAA for concealed carry purposes can't be recommended. SAAs can't be rapidly fired. The hammer has to be cocked for each round fired. They often have very light trigger pulls which can go off unexpectedly in the heat of the moment. Cartridge capacity rarely exceeds six and SAAs are slow and clumsy to reload. A modern day semi-auto pistol is a much better choice for most practical purposes.

Still, SAAs are a viable choice, especially in today's market. Unlike many firearms, SAAs are readily available - and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

CLER, FROM PAGE 11

Place a good handful of prepared tinder where you want your fire. Construct a small tipi of kindling over the top of the tinder bundle. The tipi should be directly on top of the tinder. Leave a small door to introduce a flame on the upwind side of the tipi. Construct a tipi of small firewood pieces directly on top of the kindling tipi, leaving a door on the upwind side.

When you are ready, you may introduce a flame in the door of your fire. If done correctly you will have a small fire in short order. Building a “one flame fire” consistently takes practice, patience and pride. It also prepares you for the next step: fire without matches or lighters. We will explore this topic in an upcoming issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. 🍷

John Cler is a retired high school science teacher and principal. He has taught wilderness survival skills to students of all ages for more than 40 years.

AGUILAR, FROM PAGE 12

released. Contact! The bird fell gracefully, lacking the time to even muddy her wings.

There was no sense of excitement, as I thought about all the work required to fully utilize my harvest. After texting “Bird Down” to Mike, I stepped out of the blind to inspect the hen. I gave thanks before heading towards my car. Walking through the field, trying to juggle bow and bird, it became hard not to smile. 🍷

Leo Aguilar is an artist, father, Oneida tribal member and self-described “plant nerd” who enjoys learning about and implementing Native American crafts. He grew up in Sheboygan.

WILKE, FROM PAGE 30

at a reasonable cost (Colts being the exception). An Italian clone in any mainstream caliber can easily be had for around \$600 at most gun shops. Since they’re slow to operate, you won’t find yourself burning through ammunition while shooting an SAA. And if that ammunition is .22 rimfire, it’s still affordable and increasingly available. Cleaning is a breeze because SAAs can be easily field stripped, cleaned and oiled and they don’t have a lot of parts to maintain.

Consider an SAA for your next handgun purchase. They’re affordable, beautiful and available. 🍷

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